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September 14, 2017

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company – Request for "Like Facility" Determinations

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1)

Docket No. 2017-277-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

By this letter, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") hereby notifies the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") that ORS has reviewed the Company's request and conducted discussions with Company personnel. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1) (2015), the Commission is vested with the authority to make a "like facility" determination. Should the Commission determine that the Company's request meets the criteria for a "like facility" determination, ORS has no objection to South Carolina Electric & Gas ("SCE&G) filing.

SCE&G plans to segment its existing Wateree-Columbia Industrial Park ("CIP") 230 kilovolt ("kV") Line ("Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line") and install steel structures within the existing right-of-way at the point of segmentation. The fold-in will require crossing over the South Carolina Public Service Authority's (Santee Cooper) Pinewood-Silver Lake 115kV Line before entering a new right of way segment approximately 1,100 feet in length from the boundary of the existing corridor. SCE&G has already acquired the necessary rights-of-way. Two (2) sets of parallel steel monopole structures will carry the line into the Company's existing Hopkins 230/115 kV Substation ("Hopkins Substation"). Once the fold-in of Wateree-CIP 230 kV line is complete, the new line segments will be renamed the Wateree-Hopkins 230 kV Line #2 and the CIP-Hopkins 230 kV Line.

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Due to load growth in the Southeast Columbia area, the Company has determined that the existing facilities will have inadequate capacity to provide an acceptable level of support in the area as early as the summer of 2018. The fold-in of the existing Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line and other improvements to the Hopkins Substation will provide the necessary additional transfer capacity and ensure that SCE&G remains in compliance with applicable North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards. The fold-in of the Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line should not result in any significant increase in environmental impact of the facility or substantially change the location of the facility.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns regarding the matter above.

Sincerely,

effrey/M. Nelson

cc: Matthew W. Gissendanner, Esquire (via E-Mail)
Joseph Melchers, Esquire (via E-Mail)